

REMARKS

In the Office Action under reply, restriction was required as follows:

Group I claims 1-8 and 13-16;

Group II claims 24-25;

Group III claims 9-12 and 14-18;

Group IV claims 26-28;

Group V claims 19-23; and

Group VI claim 29.

Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's grouping of the claims. It is seen, from reading claims 1-8 and claim 24, that claim 24 is directed to substantially the same invention as claim 1, but is more limited than claim 1. Likewise, it is seen from reading claims 13-16 and claim 25, that claim 25 is directed to substantially the same invention as claim 13, but is more limited than claim 13. Accordingly, claims 24-25 should be included in the same group as claims 1-8 and 13-16. To emphasize this, claims 24 and 25 are rewritten here to be dependent claims. As such, Group I contains claims 1-8, 13-16 and 24-25. With this proper grouping of the claims, Applicants elect, without traverse, claims 1-8, 13-16 and 24-25 for further prosecution of this application, and non-elected claims 9-12, 17-23 and 26-29 are cancelled.

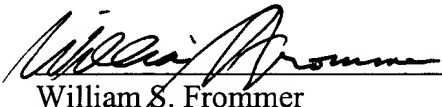
It should be further recognized that restriction between the claims characterized by the Examiner as the Group III claims and the claims characterized as the Group IV claims is improper and should be withdrawn. Claims 26-28 are directed to substantially the same subject matter as claims 9, 11 and 17, respectively, but are more limited than claims 9, 11 and 17. As

such, claims 26-28 should be examined in the same group as claims 9, 11 and 17. That is, the requirement for restriction between the claims of Groups III and IV should be withdrawn.

Claims not elected herein are being presented for prosecution in a divisional application.

An early examination on the merits of the elected claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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